

Darrington Ranger Station, Building 2315
1405 Emmens Street
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Darrington
Snohomish County
Washington

HABS No. WA-191-A

HABS
WASH,
31-DAR,
1-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DARRINGTON RANGER STATION, BUILDING 2315

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1-A-

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Location: Darrington Ranger Station, Building 2315
1405 Emmens Street
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Darrington
Snohomish County
Washington

USGS Darrington, Wash. Quadrangle (7.5')
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
10.603740.5346040

Present Owner: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
1022 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Vehicle and tool storage

Significance: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Building 2315, the Darrington truck storage building, is an element of a National Register thematic group entitled "USDA Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington, Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps." In common with other buildings in the group, Building 2315 typifies construction projects undertaken by the C.C.C. and signifies the aid to the local community provided by the work relief program. Building 2315 also exemplifies the rustic architectural style developed by the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service to impart agency identity, and signifies the Service's particular expression of this early twentieth century American style (Throop 1986).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. **Date of erection:** 1938
2. **Architect:** Unknown
3. **Original and subsequent owners:** Building 2315 has been the property of the USDA, Forest Service, since its construction (USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F. Lands files). When constructed, it was located within the Mt. Baker National Forest. The Mt. Baker National Forest was merged with the Snoqualmie National Forest to form the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie in 1974.
4. **Builder, contractor, supplier:** Civilian Conservation Corps, for USDA Forest Service
5. **Original plans and construction:** No plans available. Poured concrete foundation, rectangular plan, one-story building. Nailed wood frame, wood-shingle gable roof of medium pitch. Exterior walls of 1 x 12 inch beveled siding, 10 inches to weather. Nine open garage bays on east (front) elevation (see Photo 7). Twelve-light single sash windows in pairs with mullions on south elevation; twelve-light single sash windows along west (rear) elevation, singly and in pairs with mullions, also one four-light single sash; twelve-light single sash windows with mullions on south elevation. Single-leaf door offset to right on south elevation.
6. **Alterations and additions:** A tenth bay was added by repartitioning the interior. Some windows on the ends and rear have been removed and filled with plywood. The four southernmost bays have supports for an overhead garage crane, now removed. The interior along the rear wall has been enclosed, forming seven rooms for tool and equipment storage.

- B. Historical Context** The Darrington Ranger Station is a complex of buildings constructed between 1921 and 1983. Initially, the Darrington Ranger District was a unit of the Snoqualmie National Forest. Following creation of the Snoqualmie in 1908, the Darrington District office was established three miles south of town. Soon thereafter, it was moved about eight miles west of town. By 1910, the District Ranger had established an office in his house, within Darrington itself (Cameron n.d.: 10).

By 1921, the workload and personnel had grown to the point that a larger site was necessary. Construction began on an office and residence for the Ranger and assistants on the site of the present Station.

The Darrington Ranger District was transferred to the Mt. Baker National Forest in 1933, during a major reorganization of Forest and District boundaries designed to reduce administrative costs during the Depression. A Civilian Conservation Corps camp (F-15) was established at Darrington, and construction begun on a number of new buildings (Field 1950: 104).

The truck storage building was constructed in 1938 using C.C.C. and temporary labor (USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Recreation files). Little else is known about the history of the Station or its buildings, as the individual building historical records have been lost, and no comprehensive administrative history of the Station has been compiled.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: While essentially a utilitarian building of simple construction, Building 2315 displays four elements of the Pacific Northwest Region rustic architectural style defined by Throop (1983: 126): native materials, varied exterior treatment, a gabled roof and multi-paned windows. The following discussion is drawn from Throop's analysis.

Native materials were believed to be responsive and appropriate to the environment of the Region. Wood reflected Northwest building traditions and the local economy. The use of wood structural materials, siding and roofing in Building 2315 displays this design emphasis.

Varied exterior treatment created visual interest, and was manifested in the application of materials differing in size, shape and finished surface. Two or more contrasting textures were frequently juxtaposed, as represented by the use of both lap siding and vertical board-and-batten in Building 2315.

Gabled roofs were common, and were adapted to the prevailing precipitation conditions; pitch was adjusted to total precipitation and snow loads.

Multi-paned windows decorated as well as illuminated the Region's rustic buildings, and had the incidental effect of recalling the Nation's historic roots by reflecting one element of Georgian architecture.

2. Condition of fabric: Remaining fabric consists primarily of structural members and exterior cladding. Most windows have been removed.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 80 x 30 feet
2. Foundation: Poured concrete
3. Walls: 12 inch lap siding, 1 x 12 inch vertical board-and-batten under the gables, battens every other board.
4. Structural systems, framing: Wood frame construction, 2 x 6 inch studs on end walls, 6 x 6 inch posts on side walls. Gusseted W-type roof truss. Lower chords and rafters are cripples, liberal use is made of scabs to tie the members.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: None
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One single-leaf door offset to right on south side. Removed prior to 1989.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Three sets of paired twelve-light windows in the south end (one pair now filled with plywood); two twelve-light windows in the north end (one now filled with plywood); seven single twelve-light (four now filled with plywood), two paired twelve-light (now filled with plywood), and one four-light window in west side.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with shingles
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Twelve inch eaves with exposed rafters, east and west sides.

c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None

C. Description of interior:

1. Floor plan: Rectangular
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: Dirt (central four bays), concrete (south four bays, north two bays)
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plywood panels enclosing rear storage areas, plywood ceiling finish; no ceiling finish over garage bays.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Single-leaf doors leading to enclosed storage rooms. The southernmost four bays were partitioned from the northernmost prior to 1989, and a passage lacking a closure left between them.
 - b. Windows: No interior windows
6. Decorative features and trim: No interior trim
7. Hardware: No original hardware present, recent knobs and padlocks on storage area doors.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: None
 - b. Lighting: Bare bulb
 - c. Plumbing: None
 - d. Other equipment: Overhead garage crane, installed and removed at unknown date.
9. Original furnishings: None

D. Site:

1. General setting: The Darrington Ranger Station is located in a semi-rural setting at the east edge of the town of Darrington (population 1020). The compound is bounded on the east by Emmens Street, part of Washington State Route 530, and on the west by the

Darrington airport (a grass strip). On the north, the Station adjoins a lumber mill log yard, and on the south is bordered by single-family frame residences.

The existing landscape includes 42 other major and minor buildings within the compound west of Emmens Street. Generally, single-family residences are located in the southern third of the Station, administrative buildings are located in the northern two thirds, and bunkhouses are also located in the northern portion of the compound. Natural vegetation is a second-growth western red cedar and western hemlock forest. Most residences and the office are surrounded by grass, and the administrative buildings by pavement or forest.

The truck storage building is located adjacent to a former fire warehouse, much modified and now used as a carpenters' shop. The area around the east front, north and south ends is paved, and the west side is forested.

2. **Historic landscape design:** The current division into residential and service areas reflects a conscious element of Pacific Northwest Region landscape design. Once Districts had grown to a size that required service buildings, the buildings were sited in groups separated from residences. At Darrington, this pattern is evident on a site plan from the 1930's (USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Recreation files). Building 2315 was part of a rectangular building complex surrounding an gravel parking area. There are no historic planting plans available for the site; photographs show lawn and trees in informal arrangements on building lots.
3. **Outbuildings:** None

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. **Architectural drawings:** None found
- B. **Historic views:** Recreation files, Darrington Ranger District.
- C. **Interviews:** None

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

USDA Forest Service, Darrington Ranger District,
Darrington. Recreation files.

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Forest, Supervisor's Office, Seattle. Lands
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2. Secondary and published sources:

Cameron, David A.
n.d. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest history.
Photocopy of typescript, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest, Recreation files, Seattle.

Field, Newton
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and figures. Mt. Baker National Forest,
Bellingham.

Throop, E. Gail
1983 A characteristic expression: a thematic
evaluation of Forest Service Depression-era
administrative buildings in the Pacific
Northwest. Contract Abstracts and CRM Archeology
3(2): 123-129.

Throop, E. Gail
1986 Darrington Ranger Station, USDA Forest Service
administrative buildings in the states of Oregon
and Washington, built by the Civilian Conservation
Corps. Photocopy of typescript. Mt.
Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Recreation
files, Seattle.

E. Likely sources not yet investigated: USDA National
Agriculture Library, Beltsville, MD (historic views)

F. Supplemental material: None

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

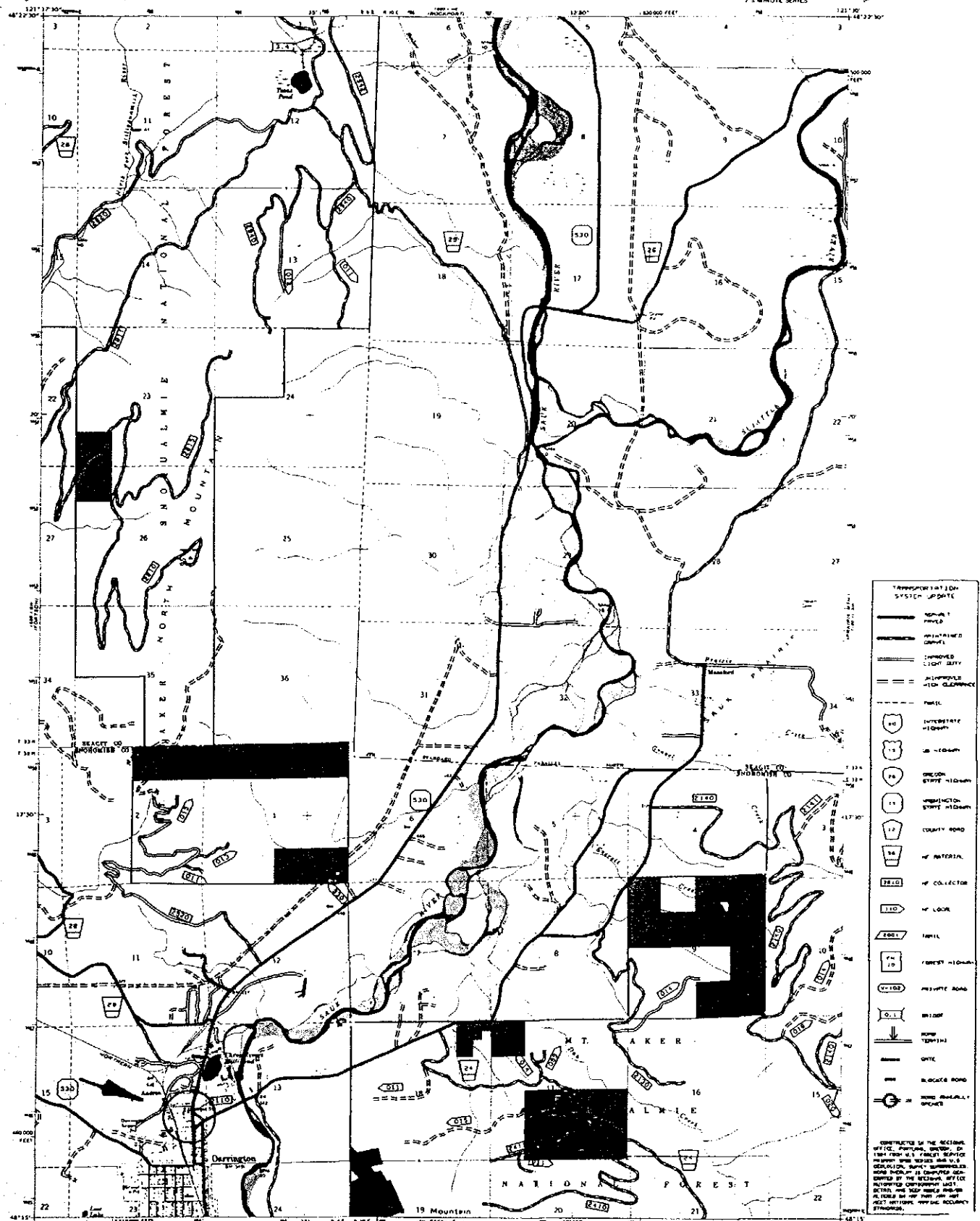
This documentation was prepared to mitigate the effects of a rehabilitation project, as stipulated in a Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between the USDA Forest Service and the Historic American Buildings Survey, for the documentation of Depression-era administrative structures in Washington and Oregon, and dated September 25, 1986. The USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, prepared this documentation, completed August 24, 1990

Prepared by: James A. McDonald
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Date: August 24, 1990

Vicinity Map

DARRINOTO14 QUADRANGLE
WASHINGTON
7.5 MINUTE SERIES

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